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Rocket scientists take over baseball game

by Ranney Adams, Propulsion Directorate

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Nothing builds team spirit better than a baseball game. It is even better when you build that spirit by watching the hometown team.

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate scientists and engineers brought their friends and families to Lancaster, Calif.'s professional baseball stadium, The Hanger, for an evening ballgame. The game featured the hometown team, the Jethawks. The lab group gathered in their windswept bleacher seats after they had eaten their share of hot dogs and downed traditional beverages at a pre-game barbeque.

The game opened with AFRL's Capt. Jeff Thornburg, who sang the national anthem. AFRL's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Damien Seals, represented research facilities across the nation, throwing out the first pitch of the game.

Col Alan Janiszewski, who leads the directorate from its Wright-Patterson Air Force Base headquarters, was on hand with his staff assistants. The group was in California reviewing rocket research projects at the Edwards Research Site facilities.

The gathering was also a reunion of sorts with AFRL alumni from across the country, and throughout the Antelope Valley, getting together to enjoy a favorite American sport.

As the game progressed, the stadium's unique scoreboard served as a reminder of their rocket propulsion technology contributions. The scoreboard featured, two space shuttles and when hometown team scored, they emitted sparks from their rocket engines @